

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-9. (cancelled)

10. (new) A method of designing or configuring a project representing automation equipment for controlling a plant, the method comprising:

storing project design blocks in a library of a memory unit assigned to an engineering system, the memory unit connected to a programming device of the engineering system, the programming device configured to store copies of such project design blocks required for designing or configuring the project;

saving references on the programming device, the references indicating which project design blocks are to be copied;

copying the design blocks to be copied based on the references, by the engineering system;

transferring the copied design blocks to the programming device, by the engineering system; and

storing the transferred design blocks on the programming device.

11. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the programming device has at least one of the project design blocks required for designing or configuring the project before the copied design blocks are transferred, the method further comprising:

comparing a software version of the at least one project design block to a software version of a corresponding project design block stored in the library; and

replacing upon a user request the at least one project design block with a copy of the corresponding project design block stored in the library, if the software version of the at least one project design block is older than the software version of the corresponding project design block stored in the library.

12. (new) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
erasing at least one of the references on the programming device; and
blocking the replacement of such project design block corresponding to the erased referenced.

13. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein
the project is subdivided into a plurality of part projects, the part projects designed on a plurality of programming devices connected to each other,
the user request is displayed on each programming device, and
the at least one project design block is replaced by the corresponding project design block stored in the library only if the user request is accepted by the users of all programming devices.

14. (new) An engineering system for designing or configuring a project representing automation equipment for controlling a plant, the engineering system comprising:
a memory unit for storing project design blocks in a library of the memory unit;
a plurality of project design blocks stored in the library;
a programming device connected to the memory unit, the programming device configured to store copies of such project design blocks required for designing or configuring the project; and
a software tool configured to:
save references on the programming device, the references indicating which project design blocks are to be copied;
copy the design blocks to be copied based on the references;
transfer the copied design blocks to the programming device; and
store the transferred design blocks on the programming device.

15. (new) The engineering system according to claim 14, wherein the programming device has at least one of the project design blocks required for designing or configuring

the project before the copied design blocks are transferred, and the software tool is further configured to:

- compare a software version of the at least one project design block to a software version of a corresponding project design block stored in the library; and

- replace upon a user request the at least one project design block with a copy of the corresponding project design block stored in the library, if the software version of the at least one project design block is older than the software version of the corresponding project design block stored in the library.

16. (new) The engineering system according to claim 15, wherein the software tool is further configured to:

- erase at least one of the references on the programming device; and

- block the replacement of such project design block corresponding to the erased referenced.

17. (new) The engineering system according to claim 15, wherein the project is subdivided into a plurality of part projects, the part projects designed on a plurality of programming devices connected to each other,

- the user request is displayed on each programming device, and

- the at least one project design block is replaced by the corresponding project design block stored in the library only if the user request is accepted by the users of all programming devices.

18. (new) A programming device for designing or configuring a project representing automation equipment for controlling a plant, the programming device comprising a software tool configured to:

- save references on the programming device, the references indicating project design blocks necessary for designing the project;

- copy the necessary design blocks from a library of an engineering system based on the references;

transfer the copied design blocks to the programming device; and
store the transferred design blocks on the programming device.